**CITY OF JOHN DAY**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 11, 2025**

**COUCILORS PRESENT:**

**COUNCILORS ABSENT**

Sherrie Rininger, Mayor

Chris Labhart, Councilor

Eric Bush, Council President

Bradley Hale, Councilor

Ron Phillips, Councilor

Vern Pifer, Councilor

Heather Swank, Councilor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Melissa Bethel, City Manager

**Agenda Item No. 1—Call Meeting to Order**

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**Agenda Item No. 2—Pledge of Allegiance**

The City Council stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Item No. 3—Roll Call and Attendance**

All councilors were present.

**Agenda Item No. 4—Amend or Accept Regular Agenda**

***Councilor Bush moved to accept the agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Councilor Swank and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 5—Public Comments**

Ryan McKnab: He asked Council to tell our representatives to stop the firing of federal employees.

Heather Rookstool: Rookstool brought up the lighting on 7th street and would like to thank Bethel for reaching out to her regarding that. She believes Council is moving in the right direction by not worrying about the charter right now because there are bigger things to worry about.

**Agenda Item No. 6—Consent Agenda**

1. Accounts Payable through 2-27-25
2. Minutes of 2-25-25
3. FY 25-26 Budget Calendar

Councilor Hale would like to remove Accounts Payable through 2-27-25 to discuss it further.

***Councilor Hale made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pifer and passed unanimously.***

Councilor Hale had concerns regarding how much the City is paying Lane Council of Governments. Bethel stated that’s the planning cost to Henry who is our contract planner. They offer planning services to rural communities for less than what you would pay for an actual planner.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable through 2-27-25. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hale and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 7—Approval of Contract with Dyer Engineering for Engineer of Record**

1. Introduction of Aaron Speakman of Dyer Engineering

Speakman stated their goal is to work with Bethel to represent the City by providing all of their comments directly to the City.

***Councilor Labhart made a motion a approve the contract with Dyer Engineering for Engineer of Record subject to legal review. The motion was seconded by Councilor Phillips and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 8—Status Update on 2023 audit—John Russell, CPA Zwygart John & Associates CPAs, PLLC**

Russel is one of the audit partners at Zwygart John & Associates. At the end of September, they worked with the City’s grant administrator to close out the solar grant. Some of the issues has been getting documents and records. The last piece of information they are looking for is evidence in accounts receivable accounts payable balances.

**Agenda Item No. 9—Approval of Ordinance No. 25-01; Franchise Agreement with Oregon Telephone (Rally Networks)**

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to read Ordinance No. 25-01 by title only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

***Councilor Labhart made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 25-01. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bush and passed unanimously.***

**Agenda Item No. 10—Discussion and/or approval of a Strategic Planning Firm**

The Council was given a report that presents comparative analysis of three strategic planning options.

Council gave Bethel direction to reach out to both firms and ask them for a scope of work regarding 5-year plan, community engagement and cost in addition to what they proposed.

**Agenda Item No. 11—City Manager Comments**

Bethel stated the City still needs budget and planning commission members.

Council did a Goal Setting work session they all believe it went very well. Every Councilor discussed what their priorities are for next year.

**Agenda Item No. 12—Mayor and Council Comments**

Mayor Rininger stated the next Council meeting is going to be a really important one. There will be an open house before the meeting on 3/25/25 regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The public will be able to come in and ask any questions they may have.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business before council the meeting was adjourned.

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Melissa Bethel, CM